



THE GRANGE SCHOOL

Mr V Murray – Headteacher

September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: CATS, reading and spelling age tests

I am writing to let you know that during the week beginning **23 September 2024**, your child will be doing some initial testing at school to help to inform us and ensure we are putting in the right support where needed.

When are they?

The first test is called the CATS test. It is a Cognitive Abilities Test, and all Year 7 students will participate in this.

- **Y7 DISC** forms will complete the **CATs** test during the day on **Tuesday 24 September**
- **Y7 OVER** forms will complete the **CATs** test during the day on **Wednesday 25 September**
- **Y7 DISC** forms will then have **reading and spelling age tests** on **Thursday 26 September**
- **Y7 OVER** forms will then have **reading and spelling age tests** on **Friday 27 September**.

What are they?

CATs are made up of a series of short tests, which assess a student's reasoning (thinking) abilities in key areas. **No preparation is necessary; it is important that your child does not become anxious, as no pre-learning or knowledge is needed to complete the tests.** The CATs results will help us to understand a student's specific skill areas and may help to highlight where particular support is needed. Cognitive ability is not curriculum related, and therefore, the results will not be significantly influenced by a student's previous schooling or their subject knowledge. The reading and spelling ages help us inform interventions, as well as the information we receive from Year 6 SATs.

How do we run them?

The test will take place within your child's normal lessons in the main hall for CATs and in a computer room for reading and spelling. They will be escorted there by their teachers and there will be a full explanation about what they need to do, and an example given to ensure they understand what to do.

My child had additional support or additional time for their Y6 SATs - will this be provided?

There will be a number of adults who will provide support for students who may have questions and also guide students, although they will not be able to answer for them. The reading and spelling tests are not timed, so students will have plenty of time to complete them. The CATs however, are timed, and all students who sit the test do not have additional time or reader. If your child uses a coloured overlay, they will be allowed this during CATs and can bring that with them.

Why do we do the tests?

The information has many uses and will help us as a school to plan appropriately and set appropriate targets and ensure we understand students' strengths and areas for development.

The most important message for both you and your child, is that this is not something to worry about and also not something that they need to have prepared for in a particular way. They just need to ensure they have their correct equipment in school, as they will need a pencil and a positive Grange School WE CAN attitude.

Just to emphasise, that no preparation needs to be done for the test; they just need to have a go.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch: bbrown@grange.bucks.sch.uk

Yours faithfully

Miss Becky Brown
Deputy Headteacher - Curriculum